

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

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DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

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SUBJECT: PORI POLL ON GOI LEADERSHIP AND TERRITORIAL
QUESTIONS

SUMMARY: PORI POLL CARRIED OUT IN MID-NOVEMBER SHOWS
DECLINE IN POPULARITY OF MRS MEIR AND DAYAN. LESS THAN
HALF OF ISRAELIS INTERVIEWED FAVORED MRS MEIR CONTINUING FOR
ANOTHER FULL FOUR-YEAR TERM. MOST POPULAR SUCCESSOR
CANDIDATE WAS DEPRIMIN YIGAL ALLON. WHILE MORE THAN
THREE-FOURTHS OF THOSE POLLED BELIEVED THAT DAYAN SHOULD
CONTINUE AS DEFMIN, SCARCELY MORE THAN TEN PERCENT FAVORED HIM
AS A FUTURE PRIMIN. ON TERRITORIAL ISSUES, THERE WAS SHARP
DISCREPANCY BETWEEN ISRAELI VIEWS ON CONCESSIONS IN THEORY
AND IN PRACTICE. OVERWHELMING 79 PERCENT MAJORITY FAVORED
PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR A PEACE
TREATY. BUT LESS THAN HALF INTERVIEWED INDICATED WILLINGNESS
TO RETURN PART OF SINAI TO EGYPT AND ALMOST ALL BELIEVED THAT ISRAEL
MUST RETAIN ALL OF GOLAN HEIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

1. PORI POLL CONDUCTED NOV 11-15 UTILIZING SAMPLE OF 1121
ISRAELIS PRODUCED FOLLOWING RESULTS.
 2. ISRAELI LEADERSHIP. 45.1 PERCENT FAVORED MRS MEIR CONTINU-
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ING AS PRIMIN FOR ANOTHER FULL 4- YEAR TERM WHILE 37.3 PERCENT

WERE AGAINST THIS. ACCORDING TO PRESS, LAST PRE-WAR POLL SHOWED 65.2 PERCENT SUPPORT FOR MRS MEIR. IN REPLY TO QUESTION OF WHO SHOULD REPLACE MRS MEIR IF SHE WERE NOT TO COMPLETE AN ADDITIONAL TERM, MOST SUPPORT WENT TO DEFPRIMIN ALLON (20.7 PERCENT) WITH LIKUD OPPOSITION LEADER MENAHEM BEGIN (11.5 PERCENT) AND DEFMIN DAYAN (10.5 PERCENT) FOLLOWING. A SIGNIFICANT 38.8 PERCENT DECLINED TO ANSWER THE QUESTION AT ALL. EARLIER THIS YEAR, 37.2 PERCENT HAD PICKED DAYAN AS FIRST CHOICE TO REPLACE MRS MEIR (OUT OF FIELD OF FOUR). ALLON'S POPULARITY HAS REMAINED STABLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

3. IN ANSWER TO SEPARATE QUESTION, HOWEVER, 73.7 PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED DID NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO APPOINT NEW DEFMIN.

4. TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS. OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ISRAELIS (79.4 PERCENT) ARE IN FAVOR OF TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR A PEACE TREATY. BUT ONLY 46.9 PERCENT FAVORED DEMILITARIZATION UNDER UNEF CONTROL OF TERRITORIES PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL.

5. SINAI. 42.4 PERCENT REGARDED RETENTION OF ALL OF SINAI AS VITAL FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY WHILE ANOTHER 44 PERCENT BELIEVED THAT PART OF SINAI WOULD BE SUFFICIENT.

6. 89 PERCENT BELIEVED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR ISRAEL TO HOLD ALL OF GOLAN HEIGHTS.

7. AS TO PEACE PROSPECTS 36.3 PERCENT THOUGHT CHANCE OF PEACE TREATY WITH EGYPT BETTER THAN BEFORE WAR BUT ONLY 15.6 PERCENT HELD THIS VIEW ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR TREATY WITH SYRIA.

8. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THIS POLL IS A REASONABLY ACCURATE THOUGH SOMEWHAT CONFUSING REFLECTION OF ISRAELI MOOD AT PRESENT. AS WE HAVE NOTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, ISRAELI MOOD IS VOLATILE, SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION BETWEEN ELATION AND DEJECTION ON BASIS OF MOST RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. THE MORE THAT MRS MEIR IS ABLE TO PRODUCE CONCRETE RESULTS ON BASIS OF
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DISCUSSIONS AT KILOMETER 101 AND LATER ON AT PEACE CONF, THE MORE SUPPORT SHE WILL GARNER. THUS WE HESITATE TO ATTRIBUTE ANY LONG TERM IMPLICATION TO CURRENT POLL AND PREFER TO INTERPRET IT AS REACTION OF MOMENT TO SITUATION.
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